—Rajasthan and some places in Central and Eastern parts of Maharashtra.

OFFSHORE

—Andaman.

—West Bengal.

The results will be known only after the completion of exploratory drilling and testing of wells.

Insurance of LPG Consumers

54 SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) since when the scheme of insurance of registered LPG consumers is in vogue; and what are the conditions appended thereto;

(b) the year-wise break-up of consumers insured under the scheme (in the entire country) state-wise;

(c) the year-wise break-up of cases in which insurance money has been paid in cases of explosion deaths since the start of this scheme and the total amount paid in each case and the number of cases pending;

(d) the year-wise break-up of cases in which insurance could not be paid in cases of explosion deaths alongwith reasons in each case; and

(e) whether it is a fact that wide publicity has not been given about this scheme resulting in non completion of relevant documents which go against the consumers when accidents take place and if some what remedial measures are contemplated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) The Scheme has been in vogue in IOC since 1965, in Burmah Shell/ Bharat Petroleum Corporation since 1963 and since 1981-82 in Hindustan Petroleum Corporation. Under the Scheme, all distributors are required to take "third party risk insurance coverage" against any L.P.C. related accident, upto Rs. 10 Lakhs per accident.

(b) to (d) All L.P.G. distributors in the coutry hold this insurance cover in respect of their consumers. Claims relating to LPG accidents are settled between the consumers, the distributor and the insurance company directly. No records are maintained by the Oil Industry.

(e) While publicity to the risk insurance cover available has earlier not been given by the oil marketing companies, consequences of the kind mentioned in this part of the question have not been brought to Government's notice. The oil industry is now publicising the available arrangement through the media and mention on the consumer's subscription voucher.

Complaints about inferior quality of pin type regulators

55. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that pin type regulators being supplied to LPG consumers give way early as these are made of inferior quality of plastic;

(b) whether complaints had also been received by Government stating that LPG consumers were asked to pay Rs. 75 as cost of the regulators and when some of them were found damaged dealers refused to take responsibility for the quality and dependability thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to improve the quality and to append a guarantee thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (c)The knob, not the body of the pressure regulator is made of plastic. When Pin Type regulators were initially introduced in the market, there were a few complaints regarding breakage of the knob. By using superior quality material for the knob and improving the design of the Pressure Regulators, this defect has been overcome.

(b) Damaged/defective pressure regulators are replaced free of charge. The tariff rate (currently Rs. 75) is charged only if it is established that the damage has been caused due to a tampering/negligence on the part of the consumer.

Delivery time for LPG Refill

56. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any normal delivery time has been fixed by Government for supply of LPG refill by an LPG dealer to a consumer;

(b) if so, what is the normal delivery time stipulated for this purpose; and whether this is being implemented;

(c) Whether Government is aware that LPG dealers for NOIDA take minimum two weeks time for supply of a refill to the consumer of LPG residing there; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The LPG distributors are under instruction to supply LPG refills to their consumers within 24 hours of booking.

(c) and (d) A backlog in supply of refills developed at several locations including NOIDA in the last two months on account of factors like seasonal increase in demand, Industrial Relation and operational problems at certain bottling plants and transportation bottlenecks etc. The oil companies endeavour to augment supplies, to the extent feasible by moving LPG refills from other sources, to take care of the increased demand etc.

आई० ओ०सी० में सेल्सफील्ड अफसर

57. **श्री सुनील कुमार पटनायक : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन में सेल्स अफसर और फील्ड अफसर के रूप में कार्यरत व्यक्ति पिछले तीन वर्षों से इन्हीं पदों पर काम कर रहे हैं यद्यपि उन्हें असिस्टेंट मैनेजर के रूप में पदोन्नत किया जा चुका है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और क्या उन्हें निकट भविष्य में स्थानान्तरित किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ;

(ग) यदि उपर्युक्त भाग (ख) का उत्तर हां, हो तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(घ) यदि उपर्युक्त भाग (क) में वर्णित पद रिक्त पड़े हैं तो क्या उन्हें भरे जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री और वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ब्रह्म दत्त) : (क) से (ग) फील्ड में काम कर रहे आई० ओ० सी० के